



High Ash CE School Weekly Newsletter



Friday 28th February 2025

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Grow Together Shine Forever

To all our families,

We hope you all had a wonderful half term. We have certainly returned to school with a bang this week. On Monday, Year 5 and 6 had a super day with Henry VIII when he came to visit. The children learnt so much. Then on Tuesday, Year 1 and 2 children had their hook day, dressing up as pirates and getting up to all sorts of activities which has launched them into their new topic Land Ahoy! The girls football team had a match on Tuesday too - please see the report below. On Wednesday, the Year 3 and 4 children had an Ancient Greek visitor who enjoyed visiting High Ash as much as we enjoyed learning from him! Also, on Wednesday, I had the privilege of accompanying our choir to the Birmingham O2 Arena for the Young Voices concert. This is always an amazing event and the children absolutely love singing in a mass choir - this year there were 5600 children in the choir! Having the opportunity to sing with your friends, accompanied by a live band and a principal conductor, and along with the great dance moves, is an experience never to forget!

Girls' football match report...

High Ash vs St Michaels - 25th February

We played a great game against St. Michael's but unfortunately, we lost: 2-1. St Michaels took the win but we will get them next time for sure! Emma scored an excellent goal which made everyone work harder to push themselves to their best. Sophie was a brilliant captain, very supportive and motivating. Thank you to Jo-Jo and Sophie for volunteering to go in goal. They both did a great job for their first time showing the 'D' in PROUD. Everyone was so pleased with how we all played. Everyone has improved massively. We should be very proud of how they played. We are so thrilled with our accomplishments.

Although it was a tough game, we tried our best. We had great communication and teamwork. If someone was sub on the side they would be cheering the team on even though they weren't playing. Shout out to Miss Whitehead for helping us with our training. If it was not for her, we would not be here and playing and achieving this much. A thanks to Max for helping us with the goalies and getting them ready for the match. Sadly, one of our goalies was injured while trying to pick up the ball but she powered through showing determination and resilience she pushed through the pain and did a great job. All the girls showed the 'P' in Proud as they cheered them on and they got better as the match went on. A huge thanks to the parents who took the time to bring their children to the match and came to support all the other children too.



By Azalea

Reflections this week....

This week we have been looking at #bebothered to show appreciation. So, we started finding out what appreciation actually means: *recognition and enjoyment of the good qualities of someone or something*. We then thought about how to show appreciation. The children heard the story of Jesus healing the lepers and how one man who was cured before he went back to his family - he took time to find Jesus to thank him. The children have made thank you cards this week for people they would like to show their appreciation - Key stage 2 children thought carefully about why this person deserved to be appreciated. The bible reading from Thessalonians 5:16-18: Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ illustrates this. As part of our values this week we also thought about how please and thank you cost nothing. But forgetting those magic words can cost you everything.

Attendance...

This week's attendance is 93.6%, this is lower than the national figures published. Please do support school by bringing your child into school every day.

Learning highlights this week....

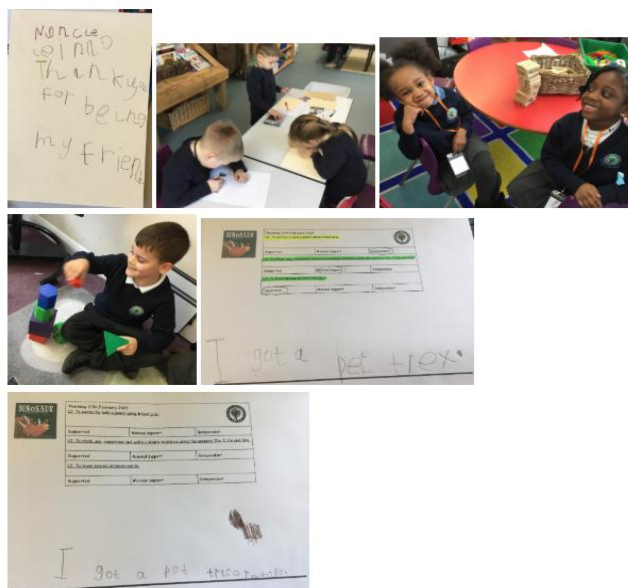
Acorns

We are back with a stomp this week! We have begun our dinosaur topic in Acorns class. We have enjoyed reading the stories 'If I had a dinosaur' and 'Dinosaur Department Store.' We discussed having our own pet dinosaurs and explored this in our roleplay but decided that it might not be the best choice to take one home! We wrote sentences about what dinosaur pet we would get if we could go to the Dinosaur Department Store and choose one. We also talked in provision and shared what dinosaur prior knowledge we have such as names that we knew and what we thought they might eat.

We have had lots of fun exploring the courtyard and the garden spaces with the weather improving this week. We have gone out and spotted signs that Winter is changing into Spring with all of the spring flowers like daffodils and the buds on the trees beginning to sprout. It has been exciting to spot and talk about the changes as well as how we have not needed to wear our gloves, hats or scarves as much when we have played outside.

As a challenge in provision, we created thank you cards for our friends and family this week to show 'appreciation' of each other. We talked about how it is so important to value each other and what we do and to remember to use our 'P' for polite in our PROUD principles and say thank you.

In Maths this week we have been learning about 3D shapes. We have learned the names of a cube, cuboid, pyramid, cylinder, cone and a sphere. We learned that some 3D shapes have curved surfaces and that some have flat faces and that some even have both! We explored which 3D shapes will roll and which will stack on top of each other.



Year One and Two-

Wow! What a swashbuckling and exciting week we have had!

KS1 had a fantastic day on Tuesday during their pirate hook day - we were so impressed with the children's costume efforts - thanks to all of the parents for their support with this! The children were fascinated learning about famous pirates from the past and had so many questions which they would like to answer over this half term. The children learnt about the Jolly Roger and made their own flags using black paper and chalks. Then we explored compass directions and used these to create our very own treasure maps - we particularly enjoyed using teabags to stain our maps to make them look old! At the end of the afternoon, we played lots of pirate games outside.



In Maths, Year 1 have been exploring the concept of near doubles and have started to apply their subtraction skills to 20. We have spent a lot of time exploring these skills practically at our tables. In Year 2, the children have continued looking at multiplication with a particular focus on rolling their fives.



In Year 1, we have also been poets this week - creating our own list poems about the rainforest animals we learnt about last half term. We have learnt how to use the suffix '-ing' too!

In RE, we have started a Christianity unit looking at how Jesus was greeted in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. This week we explored the word 'qualities' and tried to identify which qualities we like to see in other people. The children have enjoyed complimenting one another since this lesson!

Year Three and Four-

Hook day this week was amazing! A visitor from Ancient Greece came in to talk to us all about how the ancient Greeks lived and some of the myths they told! We even got to dress in some armour and recreated the Ancient Greek Olympics at the end of the day.



In Science this week, we have been starting to learn about sound and where it comes from. We used instruments to make sounds. Some had to be shaken, others had to be hit. We learnt that sounds are made from vibrations that travel through the air to our ears. We took a sound walk around the school to listen out for different sounds and how loud they all were. It was interesting thinking about how loud we thought they were going to be and then learning about how loud they actually are.



In DT, we explored pneumatics using syringes of different sizes and tubing. We experimented what would happen with the plungers in different positions before attaching the equipment together. There were lots of pops around the room as we perfected using air pressure which was surprisingly extremely powerful.



In Music the children began their new unit of pentatonic melodies and compositions by focusing on the Chinese New Year festival. First, they listened to the story of the Chinese New Year before listening to music they would listen to celebrate this festival. The children spent time identifying the features of the music including the crescendos, tempos, dynamics and timbre. Finally, the children thought carefully about how they could represent these features in movement. The children had a great time expressing themselves through dance!



Year Five and Six-

Year 5/6 had a wonderful day with the terrifying Henry VIII! He spoke to us about what life was like as a Tudor, including how different the school day was compared to modern day. He also gave us an insight into the type of food that was eaten during this period and where the phrase 'A square' meal comes from. Finally, we finished with a fantastic game similar to jousting! We are looking forward to applying our learning from Hook Day to our history, geography and English lessons this half term.

"It was so fun because it was like Henry VIII was actually there with us."

"I learned a lot of things while having a laugh."

"It was really good because he was very funny."

"It was interesting because we learned lots of facts about the Tudors!"

"Jousting was exciting and it was great to cheer on the teams."

"It was factual, particularly the facts about the time prior to Henry VIII"

"My favourite part was the jousting because it was interactive."



Coming up next week...

World Vision Pancake Flipping...

Please see the letter sent out earlier. Just a reminder that on **Tuesday 4th March** we will be raising as much money as possible for *World Vision* with the children getting sponsored for flipping as many pancakes as they can in a minute. Please note, school will be providing your child with a pan and pancake, so all you have to do is raise as much money as possible and get your child ready to come into school and flip pancakes!

You can donate using the following link: <https://www.justgiving.com/worldvisionuk>

Parents' Consultations...

We are looking forward to meeting you at our parent consultation appointments next week on either **Tuesday 4th or Wednesday 5th March**. If you have forgotten the times you booked, please either email or call the office for confirmation. If you are unable to make your appointment, please ensure you email the office to cancel giving us as much notice as possible. The teacher will then be in touch with you at a later date to re-schedule an alternative date and times for your appointments.

For parents that were unable to book their appointments, these have been booked for you and you would have received an email confirming the date and time slots booked for you.

World Book day...

On **Thursday 6th March**, to celebrate World Book Day, we invite all children to dress up as their favourite character from their favourite book. It's a fun way to bring stories to life and showcase their love for reading. In addition to the dress-up event, we are excited to host the "High Ash Great Big Book Swap" in the hall. **To take part, children will need to bring in a book that they are happy to swap for another on Monday 4th March**, so that it can be sorted and displayed in age-appropriate categories. On the day of the swap, children will be able to visit the hall and choose a book to take home. We can't wait to see everyone's creative costumes and share some fantastic books!

Wraparound spaces available

We have availability in both morning and afterschool wraparound next week so if you need a space please email the office and we will do our best to help.



Looking further ahead

Whole School Trip to Woburn Safari....

We are really excited that we'll be having a whole school trip this summer, rather than different trips for each year group. We'll be taking all the children to **Woburn Safari Park on Wednesday 23rd April** when we return to school after the Easter holidays. We have chosen to do a whole school trip as it fits in with the learning in all year groups. The children will be together for some of the day and then split into their year groups to take part in specific workshops and activities suited to their topic. It will be lovely to see the whole school together and we're confident it will be a great day.

Please now login to your ParentPay account and pay your voluntary contribution of £18.00 per child to cover the entry fee and transport and ensure you tick the consent box. **Please pay by Friday 28th March**. Please note, that whilst payment is voluntary, if we do not receive sufficient contributions we will have to cancel the trip, either for the whole school or for specific year groups.

Reminders

Parking...

I have had complaints again from our neighbours about people blocking driveways and gateways and turning around on people's property. Please do park responsibly and follow the highway code. I am sure none of us would accept being late for work because you were unable to leave your property as your drive was blocked - it is not fair and it certainly does not demonstrate High Ash's values of showing respect and understanding the feelings of others. As always, I would appreciate your support with this.

We hope you have a lovely weekend,

Kate Goodger

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